

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 12, 21 and 23 have been amended. Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 4 and 10 are independent claims. Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 4-25 are allowed.

Entry of the Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested because entry of Amendment places the present application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, better form for appeal. No new matters are believed to be added by these Amendments.

In view of the above amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,292,239 issued to Nagamura, *et al.* (“Nagamura”) in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-133401 issued to Susumu, *et al.* (“Susumu”) and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,815,227 issued to Lee (“Lee”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

In stating the rejection, the Examiner admitted “Nagamura does not expressly disclose that the second frame (light source frame) has a groove formed on a side facing the light guiding plate for receiving the light source, and at least one of the sidewalls is formed on the second frame” (Office Action, page 3). Also, the Examiner admitted “Still lacking limitation is such that the second frame (light source frame) having a groove formed on a side thereof facing the light

guiding plate for receiving the light source, and at least one of the sidewalls is formed on the second frame” (Office Action, page 3).

Regarding these missing claimed features, the Examiner stated “Lee discloses ... that a lamp cover (125) functions as a light source frame (second frame), and the open side of the lamp cover (125) (i.e., a groove formed on the open side) is coupled with the light-inducing plate (105) (i.e., facing the light guiding plate), and the lamp cover 9125) as the second frame constituting a side wall to facing the light guide plate (105) for receiving the light source, and such that one of the sidewalls of the light guide receiving frame is formed on such lamp over (125) (second frame)” (Office Action, page 4 to page 5).

With this view, the Examiner asserted that it would have been obvious to those skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to use such two frames as claimed in claim 1 for achieving easily exchanging the light source. This assertion is respectfully disagreed with.

Independent claim 1 recites:

“...
a mold frame comprising:
a receiving portion ...; and
sidewalls defining the receiving portion,
wherein *the mold frame comprises a first frame and a
second frame detachably coupled to the first frame, ..., and
the side of the second frame having the groove formed
thereon constitutes the sidewall of the mold frame.*”

First, the lamp cover 125 does not correspond to the claimed second frame. In order for the lamp cover 125 to correspond to the claimed second frame, the lamp cover 125 should (a) be a part of a mold frame, (b) be detachably coupled to the first frame, (c) have a side constituting the sidewall of the mold frame.

In this regard, as shown in Fig. 3, the lamp cover 125 is a part of the lamp structure 120. The support 135 has sidewalls which define a space that receives the light inducing plate 105, the lamp structure 120 and the LCD 100. As clearly shown therein, the lamp structure 120 is not part of the support 135. Rather, the lamp structure 120 is provided independently from the support 135 for the purpose of generating light toward the light guiding plate 105 while the support 135 is provided as a frame. Thus, it is submitted that Lee does not disclose or suggest that the lamp structure 120 constitutes a mold frame.

Also, as shown in Fig. 4, the lamp structure 120 is coupled to the light inducing plate 105 by the locking protrusion "a" of the light guiding plate 105 and the locking hole "a'" of the lamp structure 120. However, there is no mechanism that detachably couples the lamp cover 125 to the support 135. Thus, it is submitted that Lee does not disclose or suggest that the lamp structure 120 is detachably coupled to the support.

Further, as shown in Fig. 3, the support 135 has a sidewall where the lamp structure 120 is disposed. Thus, the lamp structure 120 does not constitute a sidewall of the support 120. For these reason, it is respectfully submitted that the lamp cover 125 does not correspond to the claimed second frame.

Second, there is no motivation for combining the cited references. In the Office Action, the Examiner has not explained how the assembly structure shown in Susumu is modified to adopt the assembly structure shown in Lee. Based upon Applicants' review, Susumu and Lee involve totally operational principles that are mutually exclusive to each other, and it appears to be physically impossible to replace the unit 31 of Susumu with the lamp structure 120 of Lee *without changing the operational principle of Susumu.*

More specifically speaking, Susumu discloses the unit 31 fitted into the supporting frame 24 from below and detachably held by the supporting frame 24 by the engaging projection 42 formed on the supporting frame 24 with the engaging groove 52 formed on the metallic protection covers 46. Lee is directed to attaching the lamp structure 120 to the light inducing plate 105 wherein they are received by the support 135. It is not understood how Susumu can adopt the lamp structure 120 of Lee and how it would be possible without compromising its Susumu's operational principle. Thus, it is submitted that there is no motivation for the asserted modification.

For these reasons, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 2 and 3 that are dependent from claim 1 would be also patentable at least for the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-3.

Other Matters

In this response 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 12, 21 and 23 have been amended for the purposes of clarification, better wording and informalities corrections. Allowed claims have been further amended to delete certain limitations that appear to unnecessarily limit the claimed scope. No amendments have been made to avoid the cited references since, as explained above, claims 1-3 are patentable over them and claims 4-25 have been already allowed.

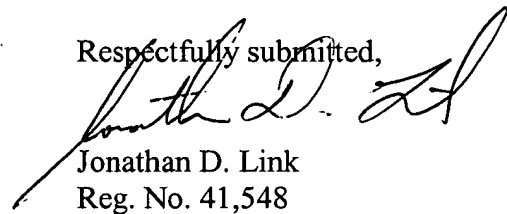
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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